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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Informal one-day meeting
Friday 15 September 2000 - Conference Room XVII

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the informal meeting.

Item 2. Implementation of Commission decision 2000/109, entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights", requesting the Chairperson of the Commission to convene a one-day informal meeting of the Commission in late September each year to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly.

Item 3. Round-up of the meeting.

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Annotations to the provisional agenda

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Item 1. Opening of the informal meeting

1. The Chairperson of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission will make an introductory statement.

2. Welcoming remarks will also be made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Item 2. Implementation of Commission decision 2000/109

Legislative authority

3. At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission decided, in decision 2000/109 of 26 April 2000, to approve and implement comprehensively and in its entirety the report of the inter-sessional open-ended working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission (E/CN.4/2000/112).

4. The attention of the Commission is drawn to paragraphs 33 and 34 of the above-mentioned report, which state the following:

> "The cycle of meetings (the Commission session in spring; the United Nations General Assembly in autumn) is such that the Third Committee of the General Assembly is well placed to consider developments in the interim since the Commission session. Given the significant overlap both in agenda and in attendance between the Commission and the Third Committee, the Working Group considers that there is scope for a more dynamic sense of connection between the two. In particular, the Group recognizes the rationale for some form of enhanced preparation in Geneva so as to ensure that all delegations have relevant information available to them in their preparations for the Third Committee. (para. 33)

> "The Working Group therefore recommends that the Chairperson of the Commission should convene a one-day informal meeting of the Commission in late September each year specifically to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly. The meeting, which would not have a formal outcome, would have an agenda comprising those issues which had been dealt with at the previous Commission session and which were also on the provisional agenda for the Third Committee. Each item would be focussed on briefly, with information from the secretariat on any developments since the Commission session, and an opportunity for comment by government representatives, including any indication of intentions for tabling resolutions in the Third Committee." (para. 34)

Background information

5. In accordance with information provided by the Third Committee secretariat, all the General Assembly Committees will begin their work a week earlier this year, namely on 25 September. The Third Committee will begin consideration of the major human rights cluster on 11 October 2000 with the item on the promotion and protection of the rights of children. Consideration of other human rights

items would begin on Monday, 23 October 2000. It is proposed that the High Commissioner's dialogue take place on the afternoon of 24 October or the morning of 25 October, followed by the dialogues with the special rapporteurs.

6. The human rights items to be allocated to the Third Committee by the General Assembly this year are as follows:

112. Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

113. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

114. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination;

115. Right of peoples to self-determination;

116. Human rights questions:

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

7. It is proposed that the secretariat make presentations of a primarily informative nature concerning the human rights items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee this year. These presentations will provide highlights of significant developments since the fifty-sixth session of the Commission with respect to the human rights items to be considered by the Third Committee, and pertinent information with respect to the reports submitted by OHCHR to the Third Committee. They will be limited to 10 minutes per item (10 minutes per sub-item for item 116).

8. A general discussion will follow the presentation of each item by the secretariat (questions and answers).

Documentation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and special rapporteurs and representatives, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions and resolutions adopted at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, for consideration by the Third Committee*

Item 112. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the rights of the child (GA res. 54/149) **(A/55/201)**

(b) Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Suppl. No. 41) (GA res. 44/25) **Supplement No. 41 (A/55/41)**

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CHR res. 2000/85) **(A/55/297)**

Item 113. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Implementation of the Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (GA res. 54/150) **(A/55/268)**

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Implementation of the Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People: Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (GA res. 40/131; GA res. 54/150) **(A/55/202)**

Item 114. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (GA res. 54/153) **(A/55/304)**

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism (GA res. 53/132; GA res. 54/154) **(A/55/285)**

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (GA res. 53/131) **(A/55/266)**

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* This recapitulative list does not include documents prepared by OHCHR under *item 86* for consideration by the Special Political Committee nor does it include contributions made by OHCHR under other items for consideration by other GA Committees.

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (GA res. 53/131) **(A/55/203)**

(e) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Suppl. No.18) (GA res. 2106A (XX)) **Supplement No. 18 (A/55/18)**

(f) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (GA res. 52/111; GA res. 53/132) ***(A/CONF.189/PC.1/21)*** **(will be available as A/55/307)**

Item 115. Right of peoples to self-determination

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries (GA res. 54/151)

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the universal realization of the rights of peoples to self-determination (GA res. 54/155) **(A/55/176)**

Item 116. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (GA res. 54/156) **(A/55/290)**

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the 11th and 12th meetings of persons chairing United Nations human rights treaty bodies (GA res. 53/138) **(A/54/805, Annex) (A/55/206)**

(c) Report of the Committee against Torture (Suppl. No.44) (GA res. 39/46, annex, and 54/156) **Supplement No. 44 (A/55/44)**

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights. (GA res. 53/138) **(A/55/278)**

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (GA res. 36/151; GA res. 54/156) **(A/55/178)**

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (GA res. 54/156) **(A/55/208)**

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (GA res. 260A (III)) **(A/55/207)**

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (GA res. 54/158) **(A/55/205)**

(i) Report of the Human Rights Committee (Suppl. No. 40, vols. I and II) (GA res. 2200A (XXI)) **Supplement No. 40 (A/55/40)**

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (GA res. 46/122) **(A/55/204)**

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting views of governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and interested persons on the final report of the independent expert on enhancing the long-term effectiveness of the United Nations human rights treaty monitoring system (GA res. 53/138) (E/CN.4/1997/74) (E/CN.4/2000/98 and Add.1) **(A/55/313)**

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and Add.1: Visit to Bangladesh and Add.2: Visit to Turkey (GA res. 54/159) (CHR res. 2000/33) **(A/55/280; A/55/280/Add.1; A/55/280/Add.2)**

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (GA res. 53/147) **(A/55/288)**

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (GA res. 54/165)

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (GA res. 54/160) **(A/55/296)**

(e) Note by the Secretariat on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (GA res. 54/172) **(A/55/214)**

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on measures to implement the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (GA res. 54/170) **(A/55/292)**

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (GA res. 53/148) **(A/55/279)**

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (GA res.54/171) **(A/55/291)**

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (GA res. 54/174) **(A/55/213)**

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the rule of law (GA res. 53/142) **(A/55/177)**

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (GA res. 54/166) **(A/55/275)**

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (GA res. 53/150) **(A/55/289)**

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (GA res. 54/175) (CHR res. 2000/5) **(A/55/283)**

(n) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development (GA res. 54/175) **(A/55/302)**

(o) Report of the Independent Expert on the right to development (GA res. 54/175) **(A/55/306)**

(p) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: Mid-term global evaluation on progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the Decade for Human Rights Education (GA res. 54/161)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (GA res. 54/177) (CHR res. 2000/28)

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq (GA res. 54/178) (CHR res. 2000/17) **(A/55/294)**

(c) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (GA res. 54/179) (CHR res. 2000/15) **(A/55/318)**

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Sudan (GA res. 54/182) (CHR res. 2000/27)

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the situation of human rights in Kosovo (GA res. 54/183; GA res. 54/184) (CHR res. 2000/26) **(A/55/282 - S/2000/788)**

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (GA res. 54/185) (CHR res. 2000/18)

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti (GA res. 54/187) (CHR res. 2000/78)

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (GA res. 54/188) (CHR res. 2000/21) **(A/55/269)**

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in southern Lebanon and western Bekaa (CHR res. 2000/16)

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (CHR res. 2000/23)

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (CHR res. 2000/20)

(d) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Suppl. No. 36) (GA res. 48/141; GA res. 48/121) **Supplement No. 36 (A/55/36)**

Proposed organization of work

9. It is proposed that, following a presentation of each issue/item in the order of the human rights agenda items of the Third Committee, government representatives, representatives of United Nations departments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, if any, will be given the floor for a maximum of three minutes per intervention. Special Rapporteurs and representatives of the treaty bodies will be invited, if they so desire, to submit a maximum of one page providing the essence of any significant developments regarding their respective reports, which will be read out by the secretariat.

10. It is proposed that two segments of 20 minutes each be allocated to non-governmental organizations at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions for comments.

11. As a tentative time-table for the meeting, it is proposed that the discussion on items 112 to 116 (a) take place during the morning meeting, and on sub-items 116 (b), (c) and (d) during the afternoon meeting.

Item 3. Round-up of the meeting

12. Final remarks will be made by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights and by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.